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RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1959



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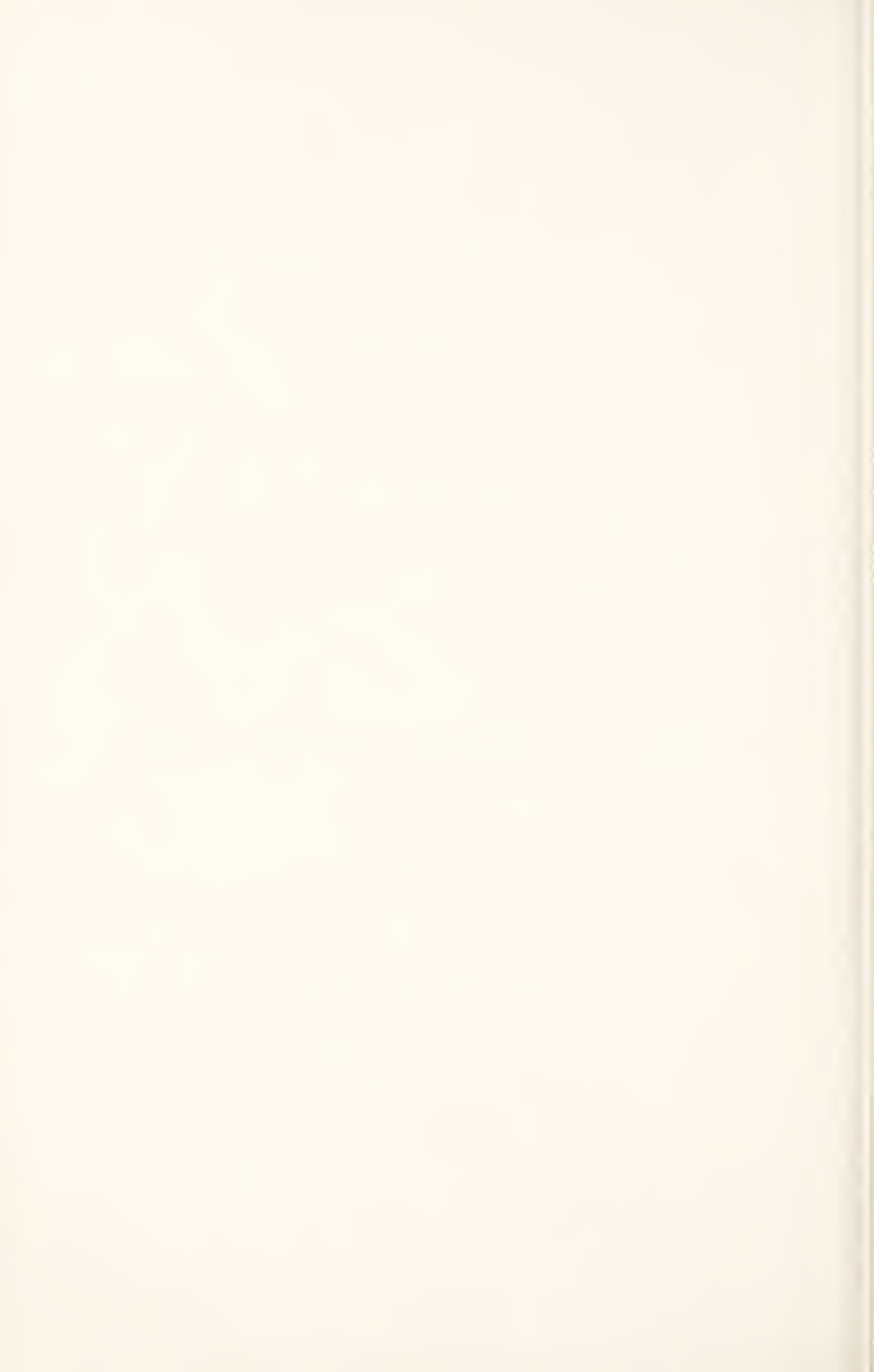
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*To the Chairman and Members of the Meriden Rural District
Council*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the state of the public health of the Meriden Rural District for the year 1959. As usual, in so doing, the social services provided by the Warwickshire County Council, with which you are well acquainted, are not specifically mentioned as details of them are readily available in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer.

The population of the District continued to increase by 2,330 to 54,590 chiefly in the northern part adjoining the City of Birmingham as overspill housed by that Authority.

On the whole, the health of the community was satisfactory and, while the over-all incidence of notifiable infectious diseases showed a further fall, the incidence of Measles and Whooping Cough rose sharply in keeping with the present-day biennial occurrence of the former malady.

No cases of diphtheria or enteric fever came to light while scarlet fever slightly increased in its common, mild form.

There was a sharp increase in the number of cases of Pneumonia especially in the older age groups beyond 45 years of age and still with a high mortality rate.

Notifications of Dysentery were doubled, chiefly in the younger age groups but of a mild, short-lived type.

No cases of Poliomyelitis occurred for the second year in succession—a very gratifying state of affairs and details of the vaccination campaign will be found in the main body of this Report.

A marked decline in cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred—the reverse of the previous year while the small number of deaths remained at the same level.

The incidence of Cancer in all forms fell slightly as did the number of deaths, one quarter of which were due to disease of the lung.

The general volume and scope of the work of the inspectorate continued at a high level and the number of inspections and visits increased by almost 20% as did the total of complaints investigated. For example, inspections of slaughterhouses rose from 22 to 106 chiefly in connection with the preparation of the Report required by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958. Also, visits to food premises, food stalls and vehicles almost doubled and investigations of water supplies were larger by almost two-thirds. Food examinations were made on nearly 3,000 occasions including inspection of meat which continued at the 100% level. Thus, it can be clearly seen that not only is due attention being paid to implementing and maintaining the “letter” of the recent legislation for improved production, handling and marketing of foodstuffs but also, what is equally important, the welcome, co-operative spirit of all concerned shows no signs of flagging. As in

previous years, the greater proportion of the remaining large number of the more important inspections were concerned with housing, nuisances, infectious diseases and air pollution.

Regarding housing, as in 1958, while the number of applications was further reduced from 549 to 503, the adverse effects of the era of financial stringency continued to restrict the provision of new Council dwellings which only amounted to 44 compared with 42 in the previous year. Nevertheless, it is pleasing to be able to record that recognizing the urgent need for accommodation for the older age groups and other persons no longer requiring "family-size" dwellings, this small output included 4 bungalows and 18 maisonettes for these categories. At the same time it is encouraging to relate the approval by the Minister of Housing and Local Government of an extensive scheme for the erection on the Stonebridge Road No. 3 Site, Coleshill, of 106 dwellings including 56 for old people, 2 communal centres and 2 warden's houses for commencement in 1960. The communal centres will be the first of their kind in the District.

Progress with slum clearance continued well abreast of the target set-out in the statutory 5 year clearance scheme both in respect of clearance areas and single houses. Once again, in keeping with the common-sense wishes of the Council to preserve as many homesteads as possible, some 58 houses were voluntarily made fit by their owners.

As in previous years, overcrowding did not create a serious problem with only 5 Council and 4 private houses affected and, of these, 4 cases were relieved by the Council.

The volume of work arising from the Rent Act, 1957 continued at a low level and the actual number of Certificates of Disrepair issued did not reach double figures (5) with resultant good co-operation on the part of the landlords.

Water supplies were ample and, except for sources from a decreasing number of wells and springs, were pure and wholesome. The extension of pipe-borne supplies continued and by the end of the year 94.7% of the 15,072 inhabited dwellings were served. A small extension scheme involving 12 houses was approved but not commenced, while piped-supplies for 25 houses in 3 other localities were under consideration.

As reasonably expected in a county all of which became "designated" during the year, conditions regarding milk supplies and premises were satisfactory.

The situation regarding moveable dwellings e.g. caravans, was largely unchanged causing no special problems.

Rodent control work covered 349 premises—mostly domestic—and 328 were rendered free from vermin, the great majority after only one treatment. Main sewers, sewage works and refuse tips were also supervised.

Measurement of air pollution—grit and sulphur—continued with recording instruments concentrated in the vicinity of the three large electricity generating stations at Hams Hall near Coleshill.

Your Council continued its membership of the Warwickshire Clean Air Council which again rendered valuable services throughout the County mainly through its Technical Committee of which the writer was privileged to be Chairman.

This is a composite report for the presentation of which I am responsible as the leader of a team.

The Sections dealing with the sanitary circumstances of the area—general inspections, nuisances, housing, water supply, inspection of meat and other foods as well as statistics of air pollution have been contributed by your Chief Public Health Inspector to whom I am especially grateful.

I am indebted to your Engineer and Surveyor for the information regarding sewerage, sewage disposal and refuse collection.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of the zealous work of the inspectorate and other members of the staff and the ready co-operation of the members of the other departments and to thank you for your encouragement and support throughout the year.

R. S. McELROY

Medical Officer of Health.

Park Road,
COLESHILL.

July, 1960.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1 9 5 9

Chairman of the Council :

J. S. BREEDEN, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

Mrs. C. M. WHEATLEY

Clerk of the Council :

RAYMOND E. HALE

Public Health Committee : 1959-60

Gardner, Mrs. O. R.	Day, A. R.	Jackson, B. H.
Glassett, Mrs. D. C.	Dugmore, A. P.	Kelsey, H.
Gregg, Mrs. M.	Earle, R. J.	Neal, W. B.
Gurden, Mrs. M. E.	Edwards, N. A.	Shaw, E.
Wheatley, Mrs. C. M.	Fish, E. G.	Spencer, R. J.
Antrobus, W.	Gee, Capt. D.	Sperryn, J. G.
Butler, F. S.	Greensmith, H.	Stewart, J. D.

Housing Committee : 1959-60

Gardner, Mrs. O. R.	Breeden, J. S.	Sakne, E.
Glassett, Mrs. D. C.	Day, A. R.	Spencer, R. G.
Gregg, Mrs. M.	Hales, A. F.	Sperryn, J. G.
Jackson, Mrs. V. L.	Hamar, J.	Stewart, J. D.
Lynall, Mrs. G. M.	Kelsey, E. J.	Victor-Halford, C. A.
Parry, Mrs. E. I.	Knowles, T.	Wyldbore-Smith, A. R.
Aylesford, Earl of	Prosser, D. W.	

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1959

Medical Officer of Health :

R. S. McELROY, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M.

(Also Medical Officer of Health, Tamworth Rural District Council
and Area Medical Officer, North Western Area, Warwickshire
County Council)

Chief Public Health Inspector :

R. HAINES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

G. B. STOKES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

W. W. G. CUTTS, M.A.P.H.I.

T. P. BERESFORD, M.A.P.H.I.

R. L. TUDGE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

B. H. HALES, M.A.P.H.I.
(Appointed 23rd May, 1960)

Chief Clerk :

J. D. MYNARD

Council Offices :

Old Bank House,
Church Hill,
Coleshill.

Telephone : Coleshill 3141.

Office of the Medical Officer of Health :

Area Health Office,
Park Road,
Coleshill.

Telephone : Coleshill 2331-2.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Population (Estimated Mid. 1959)	54,590
Area in acres	61,775
No. of inhabited dwellings (Dec., 1959)	15,810
Rateable value (at 1st April, 1959)	£586,858
Product of a penny rate	£2,445

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	494	522	1,016
Illegitimate	14	12	26
Totals	508	534	1,042

Birth Rate

19.08 per 1,000 estimated population

1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
19.08	20.03	18.55	17.37	16.14	17.53	16.82	15.50	15.54	17.5

Still Births

Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	9	7	16
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Totals	10	7	17

Still Birth Rate

16.05 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
16.05	20.58	18.18	21.67	25.35	16.99	19.81	28.1	32.2	18.2

Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all causes ..	201	183	384

Crude Death Rate

7.03 per 1,000 estimated population.

1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
7.03	7.36	6.91	7.49	8.35	8.26	8.8	8.3	10.3	9.2

Classified Causes of Death.

Cause of Death		Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	2	4
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease ..	1	1	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	5	11
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	16	3	19
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	11	11
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	13	28
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3	1	4
16.	Diabetes	—	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	21	29	50
18.	Coronary disease, angina	42	14	56
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	4	7	11
20.	Other heart disease	17	27	44
21.	Other circulatory disease	4	10	14
22.	Influenza	2	2	4
23.	Pneumonia	10	12	22
24.	Bronchitis	14	8	22
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1	1	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	3	—	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	2	6	8
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	15	21	36
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	9	2	11
34.	All other accidents	5	2	7
35.	Suicide	4	—	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war	1	—	1
37.	All causes	201	183	384

Population and Birth and Death Ratio.

Year		Estimated Population	Total Live Births	Total Deaths	Birth and Death ratio
1950	..	36,990	646	340	+306
1951	..	37,950	590	390	+200
1952	..	37,790	586	315	+271
1953	..	38,220	643	339	+304
1954	..	39,590	694	327	+367
1955	..	42,870	692	358	+334
1956	..	46,820	813	351	+462
1957	..	49,490	918	342	+576
1958	..	52,260	1,047	385	+662
1959	..	54,590	1,042	384	+658

Maternal Deaths .. Nil.

Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	7	8	15
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	7	8	15

Infant Mortality Rate.

14.39 per 1,000 births.

1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
14.39	16.2	20.7	22.1	30.3	28.8	35.7	32.4	34	46

Infant Deaths (under 4 weeks of age).

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4	6	10
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	4	6	10

Neonatal Death Rate .. 9.59 per 1,000 live births.
(first four weeks)

Comparative Birth and Death Rates per 1,000 population.

	Meriden Rural District	England and Wales (provisional)
Births		
Live Births ..	*17.36	16.5
Still Births ..	16.05(a)	20.7(a)
Deaths		
All causes	*10.26	11.6
Infant Mortality ..	14.39(b)	22.0(b)
Neonatal mortality	9.59(b)	

* Using comparability factors (Births 0.92 and Deaths 1.46).

(a) per 1,000 total live and still births.

(b) per 1,000 live births.

Cancer.

	Male	Female	Total
Total Deaths all Forms	40	37	77

Cancer Death Rate =1.41 per 1,000 estimated population.

Population

The mid-year estimate of the Registrar General was 54,590—an increase by 2,330 over the 1958 total of 52,260. As was the case during the previous four years this expansion mostly occurred in the parish of Kingshurst where the large-scale development by the Birmingham Housing Department contributed.

Births

As would be expected from the large influx of married couples of the younger age groups, especially in the Kingshurst and Castle Bromwich Parishes, the standardised Birth Rate of 17.36 per 1,000 estimated population exceeded the corresponding figure of 16.5 for England and Wales but was slightly lower than that of 18.42 for the District as a whole in 1958.

Deaths

Further evidence of the good health and longevity of the inhabitants is apparent in the comparative Death Rate of 10.26 per 1,000 population which continued lower than the provisional figure of 11.6 for England and Wales. The Crude Death Rate of 7.03 per 1,000 was the lowest for 17 years. The pattern of the chief causes of death remained largely unchanged with heart disease, cancer and vascular lesions of the nervous system predominating in that order.

Cancer in various forms caused 77 deaths and, of these, 19 were due to new growths of the lung affecting 16 males and 3 females.

For the eighth successive year no maternal deaths were recorded.

Among notifiable infectious diseases, Pneumonia caused 22 deaths—a mortality rate of 35% chiefly affecting the younger and older age groups and, as yet, not readily yielding to the modern medicaments.

National Assistance Act, 1948

The number of cases requiring assessment for admission to hospital or residential accommodation decreased but the shortage of accommodation continued to be a matter of great concern. It is pleasing to be able to report that, in no instance, was statutory action for compulsory removal necessary.

SECTION B.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1959.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified. (Comparative figures for 1958 in parenthesis) at Ages — Years								Total cases re- moved to Hospital	Total Deaths
	At all ages	Un- der 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and up- w'ds.		
Measles	344 (619)	8	184	147	—	5	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	72 (20)	6	26	40	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2 (5)	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	54 (46)	—	12	41	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	63 (42)	—	6	6	5	5	14	27	6	22
Malaria	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	96 (41)	3	26	36	7	24	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	98 (111)	—	—	—	67	31	—	—	98	—
Meningococcal Infection	2 (—)	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	— (—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8 (24)	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	15 (33)	—	—	1	2	8	3	1	4	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4 (2)	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	11 (2)	—	8	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	769 (945)	26	264	273	84	75	19	28	116	26

General Comment

Compared with 1958, notifications of infectious diseases decreased from 945 to 769, chiefly due to a much lower incidence of Measles and Pulmonary Tuberculosis—almost 50%—although cases of Pneumonia and Dysentery increased by half.

Measles

The biennial periodicity of this malady in epidemic form in recent years was not repeated in that, compared with the 1957 figure of 1,006 and the 1958 figure of 613, notifications declined still further to 344.

Whooping Cough

Although cases were trebled (72) compared with 1958 the disease was of a mild nature probably modified by inoculations, as heretofore, combined with Diphtheria. These combined injections continued to be popular and 727 out of 853 were given to infants under one year. The following table gives details and from it will also be noticed a gratifying number of reinforcing or “booster” doses mostly to children around the school-entry age.

Table showing number of children Immunised against Whooping Cough in 1959

	Age at Date of Injection					
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary	727	103	12	11	—	853
Reinforcing	—	1	70	382	30	483
Totals	727	104	82	393	30	1,336

Diphtheria

The fact that no cases have been notified for ten successive years is no reason for complacency and once again it must be emphasized that a high level of immunisation is the only real safeguard against a still very serious and frequently fatal malady, especially in persons not previously inoculated.

The table sub-pended summarises the campaign undertaken by County Council and General Practitioners. It will be seen that the figures compare favourably with those for 1958 particularly regarding reinforcing doses. Following discussions with the County Medical Officer it was agreed that combined inoculation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus would be offered in 1960.

Table showing number of Children Immunised against Diptheria during 1959.

(Comparative figures for 1958 are given in parenthesis).

	Age at date of injection					
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary	740 (761)	114 (157)	12 (17)	15 (7)	— (2)	881 (944)
Re-inforcing	— (—)	1 (2)	98 (67)	445 (347)	58 (154)	602 (570)
Totals	740 (761)	115 (159)	110 (84)	460 (354)	58 (156)	1,483 (1,514)

Smallpox

No cases occurred nor was it necessary to keep under surveillance any contacts of patients elsewhere. On two occasions the writer was consulted regarding diagnosis of this disease which fortunately he was successfully able to discount.

Details of vaccinations will be found in the usual table from which it will be learned that the total number of primary inoculations decreased slightly while revaccinations—mostly in families emigrating or adults proceeding temporarily on business overseas—varied little compared with the previous year.

When related to the 1,042 live births registered the 593 primary vaccinations under the age of one year represent an acceptance rate of 57%. Health Visitors advise parents of the value of this vaccination and its importance is further emphasized by them and the Medical Officer at the Child Welfare Clinics where the majority are vaccinated in series with other prophylactic measures. Of course, the general practitioners also play no small part in furthering work of this preventive nature and their ready co-operation is much appreciated.

Table showing Number of Persons Vaccinated against Smallpox in 1959.

(Comparative figures for 1958 are given in parenthesis).

	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Totals
Vaccinated	593 (658)	42 (24)	32 (21)	28 (18)	22 (36)	717 (757)
Re-Vaccinated ...	— (—)	— (—)	5 (4)	11 (13)	48 (57)	64 (74)
Totals	593 (658)	42 (24)	37 (25)	39 (31)	70 (93)	781 (831)

Scarlet Fever

The incidence remained at a low level of 54 cases compared with 46 in 1958. The majority occurred in school-children, all of a mild nature, treated at home. It is not unlikely that many cases pass unnoticed as the rash usually associated with the illness is frequently very slight and short-lived.

Pneumonia

Cases recorded increased from 42 to 63, mostly in persons over 65. The death rate at 35% is much lower than that of 70% for 1958 but, nevertheless, the challenge to research workers remains.

Dysentery

Reports increased from 41 to 96 in keeping with the over-all country-wide rise. The majority of persons affected were school-children none of whom required hospitalization for what usually was a mild, short-lived infection.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Notifications decreased from 111 to 98 compared with the previous year and for the most part were from Marston Green Maternity Hospital where deliveries were 3,130 for the year so that the incidence was relatively low.

Acute Poliomyelitis

For the second year in succession no cases came to light and there is now good reason to attribute this satisfactory state of affairs to the vaccination campaign which was extended to include persons up to 40 years of age. Some 5,667 persons received two injections in the Meriden and Tamworth Districts comprising the North Western Area of the County. In addition 11,114 people were given a third or "booster" dose.

Tuberculosis

During the year 16 new patients of the pulmonary and 4 of the non-pulmonary type of the disease were reported compared with 34 and 2 cases respectively in 1958.

Only 4 of the pulmonary infections were admitted to hospital the majority undergoing treatment in their own homes and, thereby, reducing the over-all costs of administration largely made possible by the modern drugs taken by mouth albeit usually for up to 2 years.

Total number of Tuberculous persons remaining on Register at 31st December, 1959.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1. Total on register at 31st December, 1958	156	135	25	23
2. New Cases	10	6	1	3
3. Inward Transfers	6	12	1	—
4. Removals	10	10	4	2
5. Total on register at 31st December, 1959	162	143	23	24

The Chest Clinic, opened at Coleshill in 1954, continued in charge of Dr. W. E. Zundel, the Chest Physician with the radio-grapher from St. Gerard’s Hospital, Coleshill still in attendance. The Clinic is open on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

Cases attending Coleshill Chest Clinic at 31st December, 1959.

	Men	Women	Children	Totals
Pulmonary	88	81	12	181
Non-Pulmonary	6	9	8	23
Totals	94	90	20	204

The B.C.G. Vaccination Clinic opened in February, 1955 and from the Table sub-pended it will be seen that 29 children were inoculated.

No. of persons vaccinated at Coleshill B.C.G. Clinic during 1959.

Men	Women	Children	Total
—	17	29	46

As in 1958, rehousing of tuberculous persons was largely restricted to the Kingshurst Hall Estate in the Parish of that name where development by the Birmingham Housing Department continued.

The sex incidence and age groups of the new cases is recorded in the following Table from which it will be seen that adolescents and young adults comprised over half the total. There were 4 deaths, all in persons over 55 years of age.

Age and Sex Distribution of New Cases and Deaths notified during 1959

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	..	5	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
35	..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	..	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 and upwards	..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	..	10	6	1	3	2	2	—	—

Infected milk supplies are investigated by the County Health Department and the position during the year was as follows :—

Tuberculous Milk Investigations—Routine Milk Samples for Biological Examination during the year 1959

Designation of Milk	Total No. of Samples	No. Positive
Pasteurised	3	Nil
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised).....	3	Nil
Tuberculin Tested	10	Nil
Non-designated	87	1

Food Poisoning

Eleven cases were reported.

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The following inspections and visits were made :—

Housing	1,254
Overcrowding	23
Rent Act	30
Nuisances	1,269
Air pollution	331
Food examination	2,290
Slaughterhouses	106
Food premises.....	318
Food stalls and vehicles	108
Bakehouses	9
Dairies	16
Water supplies	291
Camping sites and moveable dwellings	276
Factories	28
Shops (other than food shops).....	32
Infectious diseases	611
Rodent control	1,616
Closet conversions	26
Miscellaneous	419
	—
	9,053
	—

Complaints received and investigated totalled 758.

NUISANCES.

Nuisances were reported and dealt with as follows :—

Accumulations of refuse	26
Animals so kept	2
Cesspools overflowing	49
Closets defective and insanitary	33
Drains choked and defective	81
Dustbins defective or absent	35
Foul ditches and water courses.....	27
Smoke, dust and effluvia	22
Housing defects :	
Dampness	13
Defective walls	24
,, roofs	26
,, chimneys.....	12
,, windows and doors	28
,, rainwater conductors	10
,, wall and ceiling plaster	20
,, floors	15
,, firegrates.....	7
,, paving	3
,, washing boilers	1
Unsatisfactory water supplies	13
	447

This table does not include defects at houses recorded under the Consolidated Regulations, for action under Part II of the Housing Act, 1957.

The following is a summary of formal notices served during the year under the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of nuisances and similar matters :—

Section	Subject	No. of cases
39	Defective drainage	3
44	Insufficient closet accommodation.....	1
45	Defective closet.....	1
93	Nuisances	8
138	Water supply	3

HOUSING

A review of housing applications was completed during the year showing a reduction to 503 from 549 the previous year. There is evidence of increasing demands for old people's dwellings.

Forty-four new houses were completed and let during the year, as follows :—

Corley	4 old people's bungalows 2—2 bedroom bungalows 2—2 bedroom houses 6—3 bedroom houses
Meriden	12—maisonettes (1 bedroom type)
Shustoke	6—maisonettes (1 bedroom type) 7—2 bedroom houses 5—3 bedroom houses

In addition, 71 casual vacancies occurred in existing houses.

The total of 115 families re-housed during 1959 can be divided into the following categories :—

Slum clearance	34
General needs	67
Old people (other than slum clearance)	4
Agricultural	6
Industrial workers (special scheme)	2
Nurse (by virtue of employment)	1
Council employee (by virtue of employment).....	1
	115

Slum Clearance

Action taken during the year is summarized in the following table :—

Clearance areas

Number of orders made during the year.....	3
Number of houses affected	22
Number of orders confirmed	2
Number of houses demolished	25

Single houses

Demolition orders made	18
Houses demolished.....	12
Undertakings accepted that houses will cease to be used for habitation	10
Closing orders revoked	1
Demolition orders revoked	1

Houses made fit—

Voluntarily, by owners	58
By owners, after formal notices	5
By Council, in default of owners	1

Overcrowding

The position at the end of the year was as follows :—

No. of private houses known to be overcrowded	5
No. of Council houses known to be overcrowded	4
No. of families involved	11
No. of persons involved	80
Cases relieved during year by Council	4

Rent Act, 1957

Action taken during the year is given in the table below :—

Applications for certificates of disrepair (form I)....	5
Notices to landlords of intention to issue certificates of disrepair (form J)	5
Undertakings to do repairs received from landlords (form K)	4
Certificates of disrepair issued (form L)	2
Applications for cancellation of certificates of disrepair	3
Certificates of disrepair cancelled on application, after repairs had been completed	1

WATER SUPPLIES

The following table gives the results of bacteriological examination of water samples taken during the year :—

	Satisfactory	Unfit	Total
Old wells	23	27	50
Springs	6	11	17
Mains	1	—	1
	30	38	68

16 samples were submitted for chemical analysis, 7 being reported satisfactory and 9 unfit.

A scheme for extending a water main at Eaves Green, Meriden to supply 12 houses, was approved in principle but the work had not been started by the end of the year.

Proposals were made for providing additional mains to supply houses in the following groups :—

Dunton Wharf, Curdworth	(7 houses)
Church Lane, Wishaw	(13 houses)
Newhall Green, Fillongley	(5 houses)

These schemes were still under consideration at the end of the year.

Piped Water Supplies

The position regarding piped water supplies is generally satisfactory, 94.7% of the houses having piped mains water.

The figures for individual parishes are given in the table below :—

Parish	Houses	Birmingham Water Dept.	Coventry Water Dept.	Nuneaton Water Dept.	Others
Allesley	888	—	846	—	—
Arley	938	—	—	929	—
Astley	66	—	—	36	—
Balsall.....	929	—	849	—	—
Barston	136	—	121	—	—
Berkswell	637	—	561	—	—
Bickenhill	878	849	—	—	—
Castle Bromwich	2,649	2,644	—	—	—
Coleshill	1,278	1,209	—	—	—
Corley.....	239	—	235	—	—
Curdworth	153	134	—	—	—
Fillongley	424	286	—	4	—
Hampton-in-Arden ..	430	—	405	—	—
Keresley	1,012	—	1,008	—	—
Kingshurst	2,304	2,296	—	—	—
Lea Marston	86	71	—	—	—
Maxstoke	86	34	—	—	—
Meriden	520	—	481	—	—
Packington (Great and Little)	64	—	6	—	—
Shustoke	179	156	—	—	—
Water Orton	739	733	—	—	—
Nether Whitacre	264	259	—	—	—
Over Whitacre	110	91	—	—	—
Wishaw	63	—	—	—	26
	15,072	8,762	4,512	969	26

FOOD INSPECTION

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

Ten private slaughterhouses are still in regular use. Five others, although licensed, are used only occasionally or not at all. One slaughterhouse licence, in respect of premises which were disused, was not renewed.

A detailed survey of slaughterhouses was carried out as the basis for a report to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under section 3(1) of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.

One hundred per cent. meat inspection was maintained. The following table shows the number of animals inspected and condemnations, the total amount condemned being again a relatively small proportion of the quantity inspected.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	2,797	532	328	18,529	6,046
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	22	8	38	23
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	604	131	3	1,572	526
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysti- cerci	21.63	28.76	3.35	8.69	9.08
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	4	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	87	45	—	—	80
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.25	9.21	.305	—	1.23
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	27	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	8	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Details of carcasses and offals condemned are given in the table below :—

Whole Carcasses

Animals No.		Reason for condemnation	Approx. weight(lbs.)
Cattle (excluding cows)	4	Tuberculosis, generalized	1,886
	1	Oedema	600
	5		2,486
Cows	4	Tuberculosis, generalized	1,662
	5	Johnes disease	1,812
	5	Emaciation	1,660
	4	Fever	1,810
	3	Oedema, generalized.....	840
	1	Toxaemia	500
	1	Peritonitis, septic	450
	1	Pyæmia	450
	1	Moribund	500
	1	Bruising	300
	26		9,984
Pigs	1	Tuberculosis, generalized	54
	8	Fever	645
	5	Moribund	418
	4	Emaciation	404
	3	Pneumonia	196
	1	Leukaemia Lymphatic	276
	1	Uraemia	90
	23		2,083
Sheep	18	Oedema, generalized.....	661
	8	Emaciation	258
	7	Fever	388
	4	Moribund	241
	1	Pneumonia, acute septic	60
	38		1,608

Animals No.		Reason for condemnation	Approx. weight(lbs.)
Calves	1	Tuberculosis, congenital	22
	2	Oedema	90
	1	Pyæmia	45
	1	Arthritis, septic	50
	1	Moribund	35
	1	Immaturity	17
	1	Fever	125
	1	Bruising	30
	9		414

Part Carcasses :

		Tuberculosis		Other Diseases	
		No.	Weight (lbs.)	No.	Weight (lbs.)
Cattle (excluding cows)					
	Heads	37	1,042	40	1,143
	Trimblings	—	144	—	306
Cows :	Heads	23	654	5	140
	Trimblings	—	215	—	570
Pigs :	Heads	84	1,052	4	56
	Trimblings	—	25	—	113
Sheep :	Heads	—	—	8	25
	Trimblings	—	—	—	13
			3,132		2,366

Offal :

		Tuberculosis		Other Diseases	
		No.	Weight (lbs.)	No.	Weight (lbs.)
Cattle (excluding cows)					
	Lungs	46	306	33	210
	Livers	11	162	315	4,677
	Part Livers	—	—	338	2,177
	Hearts	5	15	20	55
	Spleens	2	3	2	3
	Kidneys	—	—	2	2
	Mesenteries	—	—	2	7
	Skirts	1	2	1	2
Cows :					
	Lungs	37	242	12	84
	Livers	11	162	90	1,329
	Part Livers	—	—	58	358
	Hearts	4	12	1	3
	Spleens	1	1	2	3
	Kidneys	5	5	2	2
	Mesenteries	1	3	—	—
	Skirts	3	5	—	—
	Udders	3	9	—	—
Pigs :					
	Lungs	5	3	437	212
	Livers	1	2	200	488
	Part Livers	—	—	87	81
	Hearts	1	1	41	20
	Spleens	—	—	2	1
	Kidneys	—	—	7	2
	Mesenteries	1	1	1	1
Sheep :					
	Lungs	—	—	669	324
	Livers	—	—	735	1,454
	Part Livers	—	—	804	608
	Hearts	—	—	29	14
	Spleens	—	—	9	4
Calves :					
	Lungs	—	—	3	1
	Kidneys	—	—	2	1
			934		12,123

Inspection of other food

The following were condemned and destroyed after voluntary surrender by the owners :—

591 lbs. Miscellaneous tinned food	(Blown, rusted and decomposed)
80 lbs. Chickens	Decomposed
233 lbs. Meat	Decomposed
2½ lbs. Mushrooms	Mouldy

Incidents were reported involving the sale of a loaf of bread containing foreign matter, the delivery of milk in a dirty bottle, and the sale of mouldy cake. Each case, after full investigation, was dealt with by formal warning.

Food premises generally

Premises inspected and recorded are classified as follows :—

Grocery.....	72
Grocery and general (not exclusively food)	61
Bread and cakes.....	7
Sweets and confectionery.....	23
Greengrocery	20
Butchery	37
Fish, wet and/or fried.....	13
Restaurants, cafes, etc.	32
Hotels and licensed premises.....	69
Ice-cream (incidentally to trades other than food)	11
Industrial catering	12
Mobile shops, known to be trading in the district	17
Bakehouses	8
	<hr/>
	382
	<hr/>

Registered food premises

The following premises are registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—

Manufacture and sale of ice-cream	11
Sale only of ice-cream	131
Manufacture of sausage and/or cooked meat	16
Fish frying	10

Food Hygiene Regulations

The following contraventions, discovered in the course of routine visits, were dealt with informally :—

Absence of hot and/or cold water supply	10
Sink and/or wash-hand basin defective or absent	18
Inadequate lighting	1
Closets defective or absent	2
Structural defects	5
Drains defective or absent	1
Inadequate equipment	11
Dirty equipment	4
Dirty walls and ceilings	14
No separate space for storage of clothing	2
Mobile shops without name and address	10
Lack of attention to personal hygiene	12
	<hr/>
	90
	<hr/>

Milk and Dairies

The following distributors of milk are registered :—

Retail dairymen resident in the district....	21
Shopkeepers selling milk in bottles only	15
	<hr/>
	36
	<hr/>

Licences granted or renewed under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations were as follows:—

	Tuberculin Tested	Pasteurised	Sterilised
Dealers (within the district)	24	25	25
Supplementary (enabling traders from other areas to sell designated milk within the district)....	10	10	9

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Licences were issued to 40 persons permitting slaughtering by means of a captive bolt pistol in all cases, and in three cases also by means of electrical stunning apparatus.

AIR POLLUTION

The measurement of atmospheric grit and sulphur was continued by the use of 4 grit gauges and 9 sulphur-dioxide instruments, grouped around the Hams Hall electricity generating stations.

The recorded grit deposits in the Lea Marston area showed a tendency to increase, which was disappointing in view of the assurances given by the Electricity Authority when the Hams Hall “ C ” station was proposed. Particularly heavy deposits of dust occurred on some days, from which it appeared that the grit arresting apparatus at the station was less effective than it had been claimed to be. The matter was referred to H.M. District Inspector of Alkali, etc., Works, who was still pursuing it at the end of the year.

The emission of fumes at low level from an aluminium smelting works at Coleshill was also referred to H.M. Alkali Inspector. Following his intervention, a new and higher chimney was built, resulting in better dispersion of the fumes and a marked reduction of nuisance.

Total solid deposit (expressed in tons per sq. mile per month).

	Lea Marston	Bacons End	Nether Whitacre	Coleshill
1949	22.99	14.23	—	—
1950	24.05	9.22	—	—
1951	26.12	11.03	—	—
1952	15.63	11.10	—	—
1953	17.14	10.89	—	—
1954	22.55	18.13	—	—
1955	13.92	13.61	12.93	12.63
1956	13.35	11.98	12.46	9.39
1957	12.8	9.56	12.62	9.16
1958	14.88	9.72	9.18	8.45
1959	14.54	9.54	11.83	10.19

Sulphur gases (empirical units).

The figures for Lea Marston are the average of seven gauges up to 1954 and of eight gauges from 1955 onwards, each annual figure being itself an average of twelve monthly readings.

	Lea Marston	Bacons End
1949	1.04	0.91
1950	1.02	0.99
1951	0.93	0.83
1952	0.94	1.11
1953	0.94	1.17
1954	0.84	0.92
1955	0.98	1.03
1956	1.11	1.18
1957	1.06	1.11
1958	1.17	1.23
1959	0.96	1.03

Annual rainfall (at Lea Marston)

1949	23.57 inches
1950	25.21 „
1951	32.59 „
1952	25.87 „
1953	22.60 „
1954	31.12 „
1955	22.30 „
1956	23.39 „
1957	24.03 „
1958	34.07 „
1959	21.56 „

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

No special problem arose, the position having changed little over the past few years. There are now 23 site licences, permitting the stationing of 185 caravans, 2 huts and 90 tents. Individual dwellings licensed for occupation were reduced from 50 to 15, by the removal of two groups of caravans whose occupants had been engaged in temporary local work.

RODENT CONTROL

The following table summarizes the work done during the year :—

Premises inspected	349
Premises found to be infested and subsequently treated—	
(a) domestic	271
(b) business	70
Second treatments	37
Third treatments	13
Premises cleared	328
Premises not completely cleared	13
Number of dead rats found	508
Treatments of sewage works	2
Treatments of refuse tips	13
Sewer manholes baited and poisoned	29

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

One body was buried by the Council under section 50 of the Act.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The village scheme for Berkswell was substantially completed by the end of the year, and a sewer extension in Cooks Lane, Kingshurst was completed.

Tenders were obtained for a scheme at Hampton-in-Arden involving the construction of pumping stations whereby sewage will be pumped for treatment to the Barston Works of the Birmingham Tame and Rea District Drainage Board and including extensions

of the sewerage system, and approval was obtained to the selected tenderer.

Tenders were also obtained for a sewer and sewage disposal works to serve a group of houses in Breach Oak Lane, Astley and a contractor selected.

A preliminary report was received from a firm of consulting engineers on the adequacy of the sewerage system serving Castle Bromwich.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The regular collection of house refuse and pail closet contents suffered towards the end of the year owing to difficulty in attracting and retaining labour to do the work. The district is in an area enjoying a greater degree of prosperity than the average, and many more pleasant and better paid opportunities are available for employment. Also the proportion of unskilled labour residing in the area is low, consequently competition for labour is very keen. All owners and occupiers of houses with pail closets, which are generally in isolated parts of the district, were given particulars of grants available for closet conversion and technical assistance and advice was offered to them.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 TO 1959

Inspections

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	149	16	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' premises)	27	11	—	—
Total ..	180	28	—	—

Defects found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanli- less (S.1) ..	2	—	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drain- age of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conven- iences (S.7) :—					
(a) Insufficient ..	1	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	6	—	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	10	—	—	5	—

Outworkers

Notification of only one outworker was received during the year, the trade concerned being the making of wearing apparel.

*Printed by
A. Tomes Ltd.,
Bedford Street,
Leamington Spa.*
